

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lottery system utilizing an electronic mail, comprising:

means for uniquely allocating an electronic mail address to each of participants;

means for sending ~~an~~ a first electronic mail to each of said participants, in which ~~a unique access-key~~ the electronic mail address is affixed ~~as a unique access key~~ to each ~~one of a plurality of~~ specified ~~said~~ participants;

means for ~~selecting~~ ~~recognizing one of a plurality of applications~~ ~~an application~~ for a lottery from each of said participants ~~on the basis of said unique access-key received~~ ~~by receiving a second electronic mail sent back to said electronic mail address from each of said participants;~~ and

means for notifying each one of said ~~plurality of~~ participants ~~who sent back the second electronic mail to the electronic mail address of their~~ the result of said lottery.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein the result of said lottery is obtained by a drawing performed when the ~~user~~ participant applies for said lottery.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein the result of said lottery is previously ~~decide~~ decided before said electronic mail is sent.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein ~~a discrimination~~ recognition of the ~~application~~ participant for said lottery is performed ~~by use of said access-key and with a destination~~ said electronic mail address of said electronic mail ~~each of said participants.~~

5. (CANCELED)

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein the notifying means notifies the result of said lottery ~~is performed by notifying to~~

each of the participants, by sending a third electronic mail in which a URL of a page informing of the result and an access keyword, are affixed, using an electronic mail to each of the participants.

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim 7 8, wherein the URL of the page informing of said result is separated into one for a win of a prize and the other for a failure in winning the prize.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim 7 6, wherein by entering said access keyword and an mail address to which said access keyword is sent into the page informing of said result, ~~a~~ the page for the win of the prize and ~~a~~ the page of the failure in winning the prize can be accessed.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~ A lottery system ~~according to claim 1,~~ utilizing an electronic mail, comprising:

means for uniquely allocating a keyword to be entered in a page of a URL, to each of participants;

means for sending an electronic mail in which ~~wherein said access key is a~~ the keyword ~~either in a URL of page for application or in a specified URL~~ is affixed as a unique access key, to each of the participants;

means for recognizing an application from each of said participants when said participant accesses the page of said URL; and ~~; said user can access a URL informing the result of the lottery~~ means for notifying each of said participants of the result of the lottery.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim 10, wherein the keyword is a destination mail address of said electronic mail, ~~which is entered in said URL, is used for discrimination.~~

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim 1,

wherein data of said ~~user~~ participants who applied for the lottery is collected and stored.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A lottery system according to claim 1, wherein said lottery system is entirely incorporated into a computer system.

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CANCELED)

16. (NEW) A method for conducting a lottery, comprising the steps of:
allocating uniquely an electronic mail address to each of participants;
sending by a host a first electronic mail in which an electronic mail address is affixed as a unique access key to each one of a plurality of specified participants;
recognizing said specified participants for a lottery by receiving a second electronic mail sent back to said electronic mail address from each of said participants;
conducting said lottery; and
notifying each one of the participants who sent back the second electronic mail of their result of said lottery.

17. (NEW) A lottery system utilizing an electronic mail, comprising:
means for uniquely allocating a URL to each of participants;
means for sending an electronic mail in which the URL is affixed as a unique access key to each of the participants;
means for recognizing an application from each of the participants when the participant accesses a page of the URL; and
means for notifying each of said participants of the result of said lottery.